

ADDRESS

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GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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It is an honor and a privilege to be with you here today. I have had, as Dr. Stroup has said, a long heritage of Presbyterian affiliations, associations, and upbringing. I believe that this heritage, for all of us who have had it, is a challenge to service in the public interest. In my early youth, if the world had developed as one had expected at that time in the early days of this century, I had planned to go into the ministry. But graduating from college just as the First World War broke out, I became immersed in various activities of direct service--although no service is more direct than that of the ministry--of direct service to the government, which changed the course of my life.

Much that has been said this morning has related to the long background of tradition of this church--the tradition of service going back to the War of the Revolution, and a tradition of Presbyterianism. I want this morning, just for a moment, to look a bit to the challenge of the future. In the eloquent message that was read to you from the President of the United States, he referred to the early beginnings of the church and then said that you will be remembering the past and evidencing your faith in the future. President Monroe, who laid the cornerstone in 1821, has gone down in history for having promulgated a noble doctrine, the real purpose

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of which was the protection of the weaker states of this hemisphere, as well as this country itself, from being taken over by dictatorships.

It is interesting today as we relay the cornerstone and rededicate this church to a new era of service, that we have a task which is different but yet which has many elements of similarity. Because the greatest problem we face today is the problem of protecting our ways of freedom, and helping other countries that have had our same ideas of freedom and liberty to protect their way of life from the dictatorship of athiestic Communism. This dictatorship has taken physical control of great land areas of the world. I do not admit, though, that this dictatorship has taken over great areas of the mind of the world. Nor do I believe that even in the homeland of this dictatorship it has destroyed that innate love of freedom, nor that yearning for religion and all that religion means, which is the heritage of the human race. In fact, I would predict, that in this atomic age, Communism has more to fear from the inherent power of religious faith and the inherent yearning for freedom which, as I believe, is a part of every human being. It is the role of the church, of the churches of every denomination, and of this church as we rededicate it to service, to develop and make living this religious faith and this love of freedom.

There is one passage in the Bible that I turn to often in the Gospel of St. John, where Christ says, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." I believe that resounding word

will go around the world, will eventually prevail against all that tyrants can do, and that it, as some of the translations of this passage state, will set you free; and you means everyone who is under tyranny today. As I have the great honor and privilege with you and for you today to lay the cornerstone, I rededicate this church to this task.